

Written Testimony of Michael C. Fitts, Executive Director
of the Connecticut Council on Occupational Safety and Health
and Pamela Puchalski, Coordinator of the Injured Workers Unite Coalition
Before the Connecticut General Labor and Public Employees Committee
in support of HB 6406, February 24, 2111

Senator Prague, Representative Zaleski, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

The Connecticut Council on Occupational Safety and Health supports HB 6406 An act concerning employer's responsibilities and employee rights which would prohibit employers from taking retaliatory action against an employee attempting to use his or her entitlements or benefits, and to require employers to notify employees, at the time of hiring, of the entitlements and benefits they may use and the penalty for an employer who fails to let him or her use them.

We believe that employers who take away rights from employees should be recognized and subsequently punished. No workers should ever be intimidated or coerced to not use benefits provided for under the CONNECTICUT General Statutes of any benefits provided for by a collective bargaining agreement. At no time should any employee be subject to discipline or negative employer actions for using benefits. We also believe that workers need to be made aware of their rights, entitlements and benefits and we have seen problems when employers have not attempted to educate their employees of these rights entitlements or benefits.

Sincerely,

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